

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT 1. German Scientists in the USSR  
2. Settlement of German Scientists and Engineers  
at Lyskovo, near Gorki

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4. Settlement of German Scientists and Engineers at Lyskovo, near Gorki  
There is a settlement of German scientists and engineers near Lyskovo, a small village 40 km east of Gorki. (See attached sketch.) The town of Lyskovo is about one kilometer from the Gorki-Kazan highway on a branch road which is to the left, if one travels from Gorki to Kazan. It is only a few hundred meters from the Volga. To the east along the Volga, downstream from Lyskovo, is a small grove of trees in which are located the villa-like buildings of the settlement of German scientists and engineers.

5. At the branch of the road to Lyskovo from the main highway is a turnpike barrier, where all cars are stopped and searched and drivers questioned.

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6. A small German PW camp, no. 7117/11, is on the right hand side of the highway, directly opposite the village of Lyskovo. Supervision of the PW camp was lax until December 1948, when the suspicion of the Soviet officials was aroused by a request on the part of the German scientists that the PWs be allowed to celebrate Christmas with them. The PW camp was immediately enclosed in a double fence of barbed wire, and the number of guards was increased. These rigorous measures made encounter of the PWs with the German families impossible except for very rare instances when great risk was taken.
7. Although there are only about 40 scientists and engineers here, the settlement numbers from 80 to 100, because some families followed the technicians to the USSR. The families are quartered in two villa-like buildings several stories high. There is a Soviet house manager in each building who is responsible for the supervision of the Germans in his building. South of the houses occupied by the Germans, on a small road leading to the main highway, is another villa occupied by Soviet officers who supervise the neighboring two houses.
8. The German inhabitants of the settlement may move about freely in the general vicinity. They enjoy an extremely good reputation with the local Soviet population. The men are picked up each morning at 7:00 a.m. and brought back each evening at 7:00 p.m. by two buses. Each bus takes about 20 men. The men and their families appear to be under strict orders not to disclose any information concerning the technicians' work in Gorki.
9. Payment for work is made according to rank and title. Doctors, probably mostly theoretical scientists, receive 6,000 rubles a month, while engineers and technicians get only 3,000 rubles a month. Payment is made regardless of whether or not the men have families.
10. In the beginning, the Soviets did not give the Germans a work contract, nor did they inform them of their length of stay in the USSR. When one scientist refused to work without a contract, he was not molested by the Soviets, but he received no pay. His German colleagues, also interested in obtaining a work contract, supported him.

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